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RURAL AREAS  
DEVELOPMENT

# RAD

## NEWSLETTER

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AREA DEVELOPMENT

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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### 1965 A RECORD YEAR FOR USDA SENIOR CITIZENS LOANS

More than 5,500 persons aged 62 and over moved into new or improved homes or new rental housing units in rural communities during 1965 because of USDA's Senior Citizens Housing Loan program.



The record amount loaned (\$13 million) meant an 84.1 percent increase in the number of older people benefiting from the program over 1964.

### NEW RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE "OLD HAT" TO ALABAMA FARMER



Here's a farmer who has made recreation pay off--long before the demand for rural recreation was widespread.

William S. Bradley of Lowndes County, Alabama, saw the money-making possibilities of breeding, training, and boarding hunting dogs in the early 1950's.

This was before USDA began making recreation loans. Bradley got a \$7,200 farm ownership loan from USDA's Farmers Home Administration plus \$3,500 to help him meet operating expenses. With this he built a kennel, bought some dogs, and leased hunting rights on surrounding farms so sportsmen could work their dogs.

Today, Bradley has paid off the operating loan, put three children through college, and paid back more than \$2,000 on his farm ownership loan.

Besides capitalizing on recreation, Bradley raises beef cattle and cotton on his 194-acre farm.

### FOUR EDA PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Four publications on the new Economic Development Administration (EDA) are now available for RAD committees:

- (1) EDA Technical Assistance -- What it is; How to apply.
- (2) EDA Planning Grants for Economic Development
- (3) Grants & Loans for Public Works & Development Facilities
- (4) EDA Business Loans -- How to Apply.

For single copies send a postcard to: Editor, RAD Newsletter, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250. Please include your ZIP code.

## FIRST PLANNING GRANT FOR RURAL WATER, SEWER SYSTEMS

The Nash County (North Carolina) Planning Board has scored a first. On April 4, 1966, Nash County received a \$13,500 grant (the first made by USDA's Farmers Home Administration under the newly passed Rural Water and Sewer Systems Act) to make a long-range plan to supply the water and sewer needs of its 43,000 citizens. The study will be completed within a year.



"These grants to rural areas are a wise investment," Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman said. "This is the kind of basic analysis that rural communities need to develop their resources constructively with permanent results. Most rural communities do not have the funds nor the professional personnel, as do cities, to conduct such a study."

USDA can make grants for community planning to rural public agencies which:

- ... lack the financial resources;
- ... are broadly-based and representative of the rural area;
- ... have a proposal for comprehensive planning that is supported by local elected officials and private and public agencies, and
- ... have authority to prepare official comprehensive plans for the development of water and sewer systems in the rural area.

Your local county Farmers Home Administration supervisor can give you more information on this new program.



## NEARLY 14,000 RAD PROJECTS COMPLETED NATIONWIDE

Local people have completed 13,975 RAD projects since July 1, 1961--725 more than the previous quarter's total--according to the latest RAD progress report.

The announcement cited these examples:

From experience gained sponsoring a Headstart project, local leaders in "Little Hollywood," Arizona, decided to tackle other community projects. A dinner raised the downpayment for a community center building site. Plans call for a maternity room, reading room and library, kitchen, classroom, and meeting rooms. County extension agents helped community leaders start an information program to help low-income families stretch their budgets. They began a community beautification drive; rehabilitated 2 homes for needy families, and now have six other do-it-yourself projects underway.

In Yakima County, Washington, job training programs are a major RAD project. Currently, 190 people are training as salesmen, fruit farm, and stock ranch technicians in three courses sponsored through the U.S. Department of Labor's Manpower Development and Training program.



To improve tourist services in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, the local committee sponsored a job-training course for more than 100 cooks and bakers,



waitresses, and outboard-inboard motor repairmen. In addition, seminars and educational meetings were held for owners, managers and chefs.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A .....

What happens in a small village when a busy mother of two does more than just wonder if a community club would help her town get more mileage out of its resources?

Plenty, in the case of Mrs. Robert Smith of Washington village in Orange County, Vermont.

First, Mrs. Smith wrote to other community clubs for ideas. Armed with their experiences and encouragement, Mrs. Smith and her neighbors formed the "Washington Citizens for Community Progress."

One subcommittee got the ball rolling to create a fire district to make Washington eligible for financial help to build a modern water system.

Another subcommittee started a paint-up, fix-up project to turn the village library's basement into a room for children's Saturday afternoon movies or a kindergarden. There was a job for all--from bake sales to painting.

Twenty years of sun, rain, and snow had taken its toll on the village's War Memorial. So the group decided to build a more lasting memorial. A local granite company donated an uncut stone. A skilled stone cutter and an engraver are contributing their skills to the project.

#### LOCAL CRAFTS TO GO ON WORLD WIDE MARKET

As long as anyone can remember, people in Hardy and Mineral Counties, West Virginia, have been known for their wood carving skills. Now, because of a project started by the Hardy-Mineral RAD committee and financed by an Office of Economic Opportunity grant, more than 100 local artisans will soon be turning out carvings to be sold world wide.



Here's how it came about:

The RAD committee knew that the area's saw mills had odds and ends of wood that local people turned into attractive carvings.

But, a consultant was needed to make a market research study, develop prototypes of items, make recommendations for machinery, and design a plant. The Rural Community Development Service's

field representative helped the group apply for a grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

The Hardy-Mineral RAD Committee received a \$146,411 Community Action grant. They hired a consultant for the arts and crafts industry program and developed health and education services, a camp for handicapped children, a pre-school program, an "urban experience" program to provide field trips for rural fifth-graders and, youth and community leadership training programs.

Working with the consultant, local people in Hardy-Mineral, and three other adjoining counties developed 60 prototypes.

One company offered a contract with a guaranteed sizable volume for three years, payment in advance, and an exclusive worldwide franchise.

Early in March, 1966, the five counties formed a corporation, Mountain State Crafts, and secured a building. The new corporation will soon accept applications for its 100 job openings.

The arts project is just part of the anti-poverty story.



In January, 1966, the five counties (Hardy, Mineral, Hampshire, Grant, and Pendelton) received a \$196,008 Office of Economic Opportunity grant to expand their War on Poverty. The grant will be used for anti-poverty projects that include: A health program; special help to low-income families; and a five county coordinating staff.

#### LABOR LEADER NAMED TO NATIONAL RAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Arnold Mayer, legislative representative and public relations director of the Amalgamated Meat Cutter and Butcher Workmen (AFL-CIO), is a new member of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Areas Development.

In announcing the appointment, Secretary Freeman said, "Mr. Mayer brings to the committee a unique understanding of the labor problems facing rural people as well as a thorough knowledge of agricultural marketing. I am looking forward to his advice and counsel."

As legislative representative for the 375,000-member food industry labor union Mr. Mayer, who lives in Washington, D. C., has worked on civil rights, farm labor reform, consumer, minimum wage, and other social legislation.

#### DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 31

Secretary Freeman has urged elderly rural people to take advantage of the opportunities available to them in the Medicare program. May 31 is the new deadline for enrollment in the voluntary medical insurance portion. Rural people can get information about the program at any local USDA or county extension office. In addition, USDA employees hope to inform every eligible rural person about the program.

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